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Showcase for America's Satellite Snapshots

The Pentagon is scrambling to find out who leaked a satellite photograph of the Soviet Union's new supercarrier under construction at a shipyard on the Black Sea. The picture, published earlier this month in Jane's Defence Weekly, is "obviously not the best we can do," says one officer, but it gives the Soviets clues to the quality of American space-borne cameras—and might help them camouflage military secrets from the satellites' prying lenses. "We normally don't even talk about satellite photography, never mind publish it. Everybody is running for cover on this one," says a Pentagon official. Suspicion has fallen on the U.S. Navy, since showing the Russians' big carriers can only garner support for its program to add three new flattops to the U.S. fleet. A Navy officer, however, points the finger at NATO—but offers no motive for a leak from that source.